

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-01 CEA-01 /071 W

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R 290613Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1604

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4788

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, IBRD

SUBJ: WORLD BANK ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH VIETNAM

DEPT PASS TREASURY

1. UKDEL (D. WILLIAMS, DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY, MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT) AND CANADIAN DEL (P. ANDERSON OF DEPT EXTAFF) JOINTLY APPROACHED USDEL (GEBER) AT COLOMBO PLAN MEETING INQUIRING WITH OBVIOUS CONCERN ABOUT ACCURACY OF REPORTS THAT US IS PRESSURING WORLD BANK TO EXTEND IDA LOANS TO SOUTH VIETNAM. ACCORDING TO BOTH, PRESS REPORTS TO THAT EFFECT HAVE APPEARED IN THEIR COUNTRIES AND THERE WAS PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY ABOUT IT IN CANADA.

2. GEBER RESPONDED THAT SUCH REPORTS ALSO APPEARED IN US PRESS AT TIME OF OCTOBER INDOCHINA DONOR'S MEETING IN PARIS. WORLD BANK AID TO VIETNAM ESSENTIALLY SEPARATE ISSUE FROM CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETINGS.

TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE WORLD BANK HAS NOT MADE ANY DECISION AND WHEN IT DOES, IT WILL DO SO ON BASIS OF ITS OWN POLICY AND CRITERIA AND THROUGH APPROPRIATE PROCEDURES. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT
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US WOULD OBVIOUSLY WELCOME WORLD BANK PARTICIPATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN LIGHT OF ITS ASSESSMENT OF REQUIREMENTS AND DESIRABILITY OF PARTICIPATION OF OTHER DONORS, INCLUDING MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS, WHICH WOULD ENHANCE PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION.

3. UK DEL DOUBTED THAT SOUTH VIETNAM IS ELIGIBLE FOR IDA ASSISTANCE GIVEN ITS RELATIVELY HIGH PER CAPITA GNP. GEBER POINTED OUT THAT PER CAPITA GNP HAS SUFFERED SERIOUS DECLINE. FURTHERMORE, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS STRUCTURE WOULD SUGGEST THAT SOUTH VIETNAM QUALIFIES FOR CONCESSIONAL AID. MR. ANDERSON RAISED POLITICAL PROBLEM OF "EVEN-HANDED" APPROACH TO HANOI. GEBER POINTED OUT THAT HANOI HAS SHOWN NO INTEREST IN IBRD AND GAVE STANDARD US POSITION ON AID TO HANOI BY OTHER DONOR MEMBERS OF INDOCHINA GROUP.

4. BOTH UK AND CANADA DELS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WOULD BE POLITICLY VERY DIFFICULT FOR THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT IDA LOAN TO SOUTH VIETNAM. GRANT

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